

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 30 were pending in the application. Claims 2, 12 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 10 and 13 have been amended. Claims 31 – 42 have been added. Claims 1, 3 – 11, 13, and 15 – 42 accordingly remain pending in the application.

Claims 21 – 30 are allowed.

Claims 1, 4 and 12 stood rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rozenshein, et al. Claims 5, 6 and 8 stood rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rozenshein, et al in view of Gotou, et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bluhm. Claims 13, 15 and 16 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rozenshein, et al in view of Gotou, et al and Bluhm. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Applicant has nevertheless amended claims 1 and 13. These rejections are thus believed moot

The Examiner indicated claims 2, 3, 7, 9 – 11, 14, 17, and 18 – 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has accordingly been amended to include the features of Claim 2, and Claim 13 has been amended to claim the features of Claim 14.

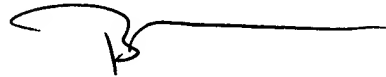
In addition, added Claim 31 includes the features of original Claim 3 and the claim upon which it depended, added Claim 33 includes the features of original Claim 7 and the claims upon which it depended, added Claim 35 includes the feature of original Claim 9 and the claim upon which it depended, and added Claim 37 includes the features of original Claim 11 and the claim upon it which it depended. Added Claim 38 likewise includes the features of original Claim 17 and the claim upon which it depended, added Claim 40 includes the features of original Claim 18 and the claim upon which it depended, and added Claim 42 includes the features of original Claim 20 and the claim upon which it depended. In accordance, each of these claims along with their respective dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\5500-62700.

Respectfully submitted,



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